First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

March 20, 2022
10:00 am

“Open Invitation”
Third Sunday in Lent
Amistad Sunday

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

a just world for all
ucc.org

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **ERIC BANITT**

"In Christ Alone"
arr. Mark Hayes

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **BARBARA GARLAND**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader will introduce Roomie Greeter, **Patty Sherwood**, and Zoomie greeter, **Jenn Zibbell**.
  - The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - If you are a Roomie, please come to the pulpit/podium to make your announcement or use the handheld microphone offered by the Roomie Greeter so all can hear. Please do the same when offering a prayer request.
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Enter My Heart"
39 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP **BARBARA GARLAND**

Leader: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

People: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land. We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.

Leader: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good; delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

People: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast. Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.

Leader: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship. We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

People: We have come to meditate on the living God. We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Precious Lord Take My Hand"
472 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 55:1-9** **BARBARA GARLAND**

SECOND READING **Luke 13:1-9** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Come to Tend God's Garden"
586 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Open Invitation"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

*Roomies: Please come to the pulpit/podium or use the hand-held microphone so all can hear.

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER (Unison) *Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

Eternal God, whose call comes to us through the scriptures, in the remembrance of our baptism and in our shared life in the church, feed us now with your Word, that we may bear fruit. Confront us with your truth and keep us from being tempted beyond our strength, for we seek to be faithful in our covenant with you and responsible in our relationships with one another. May we together witness to your steadfast love in ways that transform evil into good. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY INVITATION **PASTOR LIZ**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"Sanctuary/Lord, Be Glorified"** **ERIC BANITT**
arr. Fed Bock

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child" 136 NCH

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy meek and mild.
New life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **BARBARA GARLAND**

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. Amen.

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**
"For the Healing of the Nations"
576 NCH

BENEDICTION (RESPONSIVE) **PASTOR LIZ**

Leader: God sends us out as witnesses to good news. May our lips praise God as long as we live.

People: God's steadfast love is better than life; God's mercy and pardon break through life's clouds.

Leader: Call on God in the midst of each day's tasks; meditate on God's presence through the night.

People: God is our help in all times and places; we will call on God's name wherever we are.

Leader: God will grant us strength to resist temptation and vision to labor for what truly satisfies.

People: Praise God, whose waters quench our thirst. Thank God for the bread of life that feeds our souls.

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Please remain seated

ERIC BANITT

"Rain Down"

arr. Mark Hayes

PASSING THE PEACE

FRIENDS GATHERED

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid (In-person & Zoom) Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Eric Banitt, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, Seminary Intern
Barbara Garland, Worship Leader
Patty Sherwood, Roomie Greeter
Jenn Zibbell, Zoomie Greeter
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer
Wayne Burling, Technical Coordinator
Covid Health Advisor, Patty Sherwood

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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:** Photo by Marek Szturc on Unsplash
- **Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication:** *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler, 2001.
- **Disciples Prayer:** *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler, 2001.
- **Benediction:** *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler, 2001.
- **Hymn Profiles:** *The New Century Hymnal Companion.* Pilgrim Press 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YFC UCC Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings

God is still speaking in this time. It is up to us to listen.

Pastor Liz invites all to attend a series of 7-Week Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings to listen for who the Spirit is calling us to be--and the ministry we are being called to do—as we serve together in covenant relationship following the Way of Jesus.

These Lenten Gatherings will be held each week **beginning March 27th with the last gathering May 10th.** We will be discussing the small, but powerful book selected by the UCC MI Conference Vital Growth Mission Area Team for the recent 2022 Vitality Day attended by Pastor Liz: ***How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*** by inter-denominational faith-based consultant, coach and spiritual director Susan Beaumont.

Please read Chapter 1 (Pg 1-22): "An Introduction to Liminality: Neither Here nor There" before the first gathering. If you would like the church to purchase a book for you, please let Donna know and she will order a copy (deyster63@gmail.com). If you prefer to purchase your own book to reduce the church's annual operating expenses, please do so.

To provide as many opportunities for folks to participate in this community transforming work as possible—and realizing that compromises will always need to be made—each week Pastor Liz will host three separate gatherings to do this important work. Please attend the one that best fits your busy schedule. If you miss the gathering you usually attend, please attend a different gathering held that week covering the same chapter(s).

Participants are encouraged to follow their conscience in relation to their unique health risk status when deciding which gatherings to attend and whether to wear a mask. The two in-person gatherings at restaurants include the option to purchase food and/or beverages and share in-person friendship time. The three weekly options include:

- **Sundays--Sidetracks (Ypsilanti): beginning March 27: 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm** in the private dining room (near the back porch) 52 E Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. https://www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com/
- **Mondays--Karl's Cabin (Plymouth): beginning March 28: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm** in the ground floor banquet room (off to the side) 6005 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 https://www.karlscabin.com/
- **Tuesdays--Zoom Only: beginning March 29: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm** using the church zoom meeting number.

Thank you for gifting our church with your spiritual gifts, life energy and time during this Lenten season of our lives together.

Lenten Devotionals: The Long Haul

Lenten daily devotionals written by the Stillspeaking Writers' Group are now available. They are accessible by PDF download, which the church has purchased. There is a sign-up sheet at the bulletin table by the door. Sign it with you email address if you would like a download and I will see that you get one or email me at margaretsharner@gmail.com

UCC One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering: Next Sunday, March 27

On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent. Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephenses, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs. Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group, and volunteer teams finished the repairs. Alongside these

traditional home repair projects, and **with support from One Great Hour of Sharing**, the MVLTROG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. First-time homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures. Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says "When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people's stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them—physically and spiritually." With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership project, One Great Hour of Sharing helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains. Photos by Craig Thompson and now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

International Women's Day

This famous feisty girl stands her ground in front of the New York Stock Exchange in lower Manhattan, a striking reminder as we celebrate International Women's Day that we still have work to do in the quest for gender equality. Kristen Visbal's bronze sculpture 'Fearless Girl' took up her power pose in 2017 facing down the iconic Wall Street bronze statue called 'Charging Bull.' For the 2021 observance of International Women's Day, the corporate sponsor of 'Fearless Girl' added broken glass around her, with a plaque that read: "Today's broken glass ceilings are tomorrow's stepping stones."

While many glass ceilings are indeed being broken, much work remains in the fight for gender equality in pay and opportunity. The National Women's Law Center reports that US women who work full time earn 82 cents for every dollar paid to men performing similar work. And those lost cents add up. One study suggests the disparity is stark: Over a lifetime, a woman in the US can be denied hundreds of thousands of dollars in pay. And the losses are especially pronounced among Black women, who remain underrepresented in high-earning positions.

The 2022 theme for International Women's Day is #BreakTheBias, and organizers call on us to imagine a 'world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination…A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.' Bring it on. International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 and is celebrated throughout the month of March.

Helping Ukraine

I (Jennifer Jensen) am collecting items that will be sent to Poland for Ukrainians. This past weekend I went to help at the warehouse in Hamtramck where they sorted items for shipping. These go on a truck to NY / NJ and then on a flight to Poland.

Right now, the biggest needs are:

Solar USB chargers

Baby diaper rash cream

Energy bars

Thermal underwear

Socks, including thermal socks

Sleeping bags

Work Gloves

Flashlights

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Thermos

Vitamins

Medical Supplies:

Hemostatic sterile sponges Emergency / Israeli bandages

Surgical gloves

Surgical adhesive tape

Gauze

Peroxide

Vaseline

Splints

Where to Drop Off Items Cinnaholic 121 E Liberty Between 4th and Main Between the hours of 10a.m & 9p.m.

My House in SE Ann Arbor - 3057 Forest Creek Ct. Plastic bin on the patio Between 8a.m. & p.m.

If you know of additional places in Ann Arbor that could be a drop off spot in Ann Arbor, please let me know. I will update the list as the organizers give me new items. Thanks for your consideration. Photo is from the warehouse This is through the Ukrainian American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan. Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee (uacrisisresponse.org)

> The Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan is a grassroots group of local Ukrainian-Americans of all ages that formed roughly six weeks ago as tensions began to escalate in Ukraine.

Welcome Rev. LeAnn Seto!: LeAnn will be serving as our guest preacher next Sunday, March 27. Thank you, LeAnn, for the generous sharing of your creativity, faith, and spiritual gifts.

Worship Next Week March 27: Jenn Zibbell, Worship Leader; Sue Schuon, Roomie Greeter; Dan Kidder-McQuown, Zoomie Greeter. Interested in serving as a Worship Leader or Greeter, contact Margaret Harner at margaretsharner@gmail.com

Next Worship Team Meeting: Monday, March 21 at 11:30 am Zoom. Worship Team Meeting will be on pause beginning Monday, March 28 through May 10 in order to give folks time to attend one of the Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings each week.

Next Personnel Committee Meeting: Friday, April 1 at 11:00 am Zoom

Next Church Council Meeting: Monday, April 11 at noon on Zoom

Summer Zoom Only Worship: Church Council made the decision to move to Zoom Only Sunday worship (no in-person) for the summer beginning May 29 through September 11.

Fall Hybrid Worship Kick-Off Sunday: September 18. Combined Zoom and in-person worship will resume in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am.

Birthdays: If you have not already done so, please send Patty Sherwood, Clerk, psherwood48@comcast.net the month of your birthday so we can celebrate YFC UCC birthdays on the first Sunday of each month with Tiffanie leading us in singing Happy Birthday.

Link to Adelay Witherite's *LangRhet* Conference: This folder includes our keynote's speech, a panel of local educators and administrators titled "Equity in Action: Building Access to Literacy Resources," and our opening remarks and land acknowledgment. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CZ327bh-Quud__prUSh8DtKdq0ojK494?usp=sharing

Kroger Fundraiser: Have you registered your Kroger card? We get a small check every quarter forpurchases made using your card when it's registered. It's a simple process. Go to Kroger.com and click "**Register**" and follow the prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link tothe **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83262**, or you can find our name in the drop-down list. Any Questions: contact Barbara Garland at bargarland@yahoo.comor 734-662-5803

Pandemic Saints
A poetic reflection
March 13, 2022
By DANIEL KIDDER-McQUOWN
https://readthespirit.com/explore/pandemic-saints-a-poetic-reflection/

Recently, I was offering a prayer of committal:
May the deceased join with the saints in Heaven.

It got me to wonder,
Who are the pandemic saints?

You know, the people who sacrificed the most,
Who led us out of the wilderness,
Who restored our soul in our hour of need?

The people who we now turn to in prayer,
Our role models and intercessors,
Those who truly understand our petitions.

It has been two years and four surges,
Countless death and long-term complications,
Lives upended
Forever.

Surely, goodness and mercy followed
The COVID souls into eternal rest,
And they must now see the answer
To my questions.

The deceased have become our reredos,
Watching and praying,
Comforting and guiding.

One night in the hospital chapel,
I overheard Sister Mary Catherine,
Reflecting on the pandemic of 1832.
Today's response has been similar, she said.
People came out of the woodwork to help.
Regular people became
Extraordinary.

And the pandemic saints are all around us.

Remembering the Legacy of the 6 Million We Have Lost

By DANIEL KIDDER-McQUOWN
Contributing Columnist
March 13, 2022
https://readthespirit.com/explore/summoning-spiritual-resiliency-after-two-years-of-coping-with-covid/

Recently, I met a patient who was the spark that led me to write this article. Let's call him Gregory. At the time I met him, Gregory had been suffering from COVID-19 for an extended period, and his situation was getting worse. I had been called in for spiritual support, and we prayed together with his family. He had a wonderful family, career, faith, and religious community. Sadly, and despite the best efforts of the care team, Gregory eventually died from complications due to COVID-19.

I share this sad story for a couple reasons. First, I want to highlight the plight of those who continue to suffer. I want to give a window into what health care workers are still dealing with. The virus continues. While we have come a long way in managing the pandemic, the virus continues to exact a heart-breaking toll on patients, families, and staff.

The other reason for sharing about Gregory has been his impact on me. Meeting him was like the tipping point for my reflections. These thoughts had been stirring and simmering for months. Gregory's loss helped me realize it was time to write some of these down.

I share these reflections in hopes that Gregory's legacy, and the legacy of all those who have suffered from COVID-19, may prove fruitful to you. Perhaps it will spark your own writing and sharing about spiritual lessons.

Consider the Human Toll

I am a health care worker.

Throughout the pandemic, I have suffered like countless other health care workers, carrying the accumulated stress of coping. I've seen the toll this stress has taken. I've been through each "surge" or "wave." Many of my colleagues who are nurses, respiratory therapists, techs, and doctors have faced symptoms much like post-traumatic stress disorder. Some moved away from the virus, away from the constant suffering, onto other clinical units or other health care facilities. Some have taken a hiatus from serving. Some have left health care altogether. Many have been infected themselves. And all health care workers have made immense sacrifices. They gave of themselves before the pandemic, but this grew to a heroic level in the face of COVID-19.

The suffering goes far beyond the hospital. Everyone in America and the world has been affected by the pandemic, as the recent numbers show over 6 million dead around the world and over 900,000 dead in America. Gregory's death highlighted this reality for me. An entire family system and religious community were devastated by his loss.

The virus created a universal human experience. Even if a family has not suffered an immediate loss, everyone knows someone who has. Everyone has felt the pandemic's impact.

A Deeper Spirituality

The pandemic has forced me to reach deeper into my spirituality. In order to continue to serve effectively as a hospital chaplain in the face of the pandemic, I needed to grow inwardly. I needed to find fresh sources of renewal for myself, if I was going to help patients, families, and staff to do the same.

Here are some of the spiritual lifelines on which I rely.

1. LIVING WATER

Throughout the pandemic, one of my sources of renewal has been my prayer life. This has been a constant blessing, filling me up and guiding me whenever–and wherever–I have needed it. The metaphor of "living water" was used by Jesus to describe renewal:

Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. (John 4:14)

For me, prayer has been this living water, my primary source of renewal and direction.

My prayer life has deepened. I remember my prayers of March 2020. At that time, we were all coming to terms with the scale and terrible power of the pandemic. At that time, my prayers were focused on immediate needs. How can I serve others in the face of the unknown? How can handle my fears and minister effectively? How do I minister to people who have lost everything?

Despite these difficult prayers, I found great solace. I discovered a sense that God had called me, and all health care workers, to such a time as this.

2. LETTING GO

Fast-forward to 2022. We are now on variant number five (Omicron). The pandemic has become part of daily life. Now, my prayers have expanded in every way possible. I have found myself continuing to pray for the same things as I did in March 2020, but also for countless other things.

For example, I have learned to pray to completely let go of the future. I have learned to pray to release the future into the hands of God. “Let go and let God,” has become my lifestyle. The pandemic has made crystal clear to me that humans are not, ultimately, in control. And I am certainly not in control of the universe.

This prayer of letting go has had an odd, paradoxical effect. The more I have let go of the future into God’s hands, the more I have felt God’s guidance. By letting go through prayer, I haven’t let go of my responsibilities. On the contrary, I feel more empowered than ever by God to make a difference.

3. SUFFERING IS UNIVERSAL

Throughout the pandemic, I reflected on the Buddha’s teachings on suffering. In Buddhism, it is important to accept that “suffering” (*dukkha* in the Pali language) is a universal part of the human experience. Please note that *dukkha* has also been translated as pain, dissatisfaction, unhappiness, and other words. But the point is, it is important to accept that everyone suffers in life, and no one escapes this reality.

I found COVID-19 reinforced this essential lesson. No one escaped the effects of the virus. Even if a person was not personally infected, they knew people who were. The virus has been a global, universal suffering.

Acknowledging the universal nature of suffering has been freeing. It has allowed me to see the pandemic as another part of life. Instead of being paralyzed by fear, I have learned to accept the virus, and therefore be free to experience all the other parts of life.

Being in health care has helped this. At the end of the day, COVID-19 has taken its place alongside all the other viruses that medicine has had to deal with.

In Buddhist practice, there is no spiritual progress without the acceptance of the inevitability of suffering. I have certainly found this to be true in my life. The pandemic reinforced and deepened this lesson. As the pandemic evolved, I evolved. The more accepting I became of COVID-19 as a part of a universal reality, the freer I was in other aspects of my spiritual life. The more accepting I was, the more I grew.

4. ENJOYING THE LITTLE THINGS

The pandemic taught me to value life more than I had before.

This has been especially true with the little things in my world, which, as it turns out, are not “little” at all. They may have been regular, and I may have taken them for granted, but not any longer. I found myself valuing being at home more than I had before, appreciating my loved ones and friends more deeply, enjoying small tasks and chores for thoroughly, and finding more joy in small rewards and small pleasures.

I have found myself valuing my trips outside more than I had before. Over the past two summers, my partner and I have found a way to get out in nature more, and we have appreciated these trips more thoroughly than perhaps we did in the past. Now, trips to a restaurant or a grocery store are somewhat magical; we know what it was like to have it all taken away.

5. TAKING CARE

The pandemic has reinforced every compassionate instinct.

We have been reminded, again, that life is incredibly fragile and precious. It has been made clear once again that resiliency happens because we care for each other, and for ourselves. Without this compassion and care, we would not have made it this far through the pandemic. With this compassion and care, we can make it through anything.

The Rev. Daniel Kidder-McQuown serves as night chaplain at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. As a board certified chaplain since 2001, he has served in health care and higher education settings, as well as interim ministry in local churches. Dan is a covenant participant of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Dan, his spouse Kari, their family (including dog Esther and cat Spicy Pickles), all reside in Albion, Michigan.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION

The Coalition brings together Michigan Conference UCC churches that have declared themselves to be Open and Affirming of people of all gender identities. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open & Affirming Coalition**, or if you are interested in joining, please contact Wayne Burling (734-377-0696). More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/groups/onami). You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

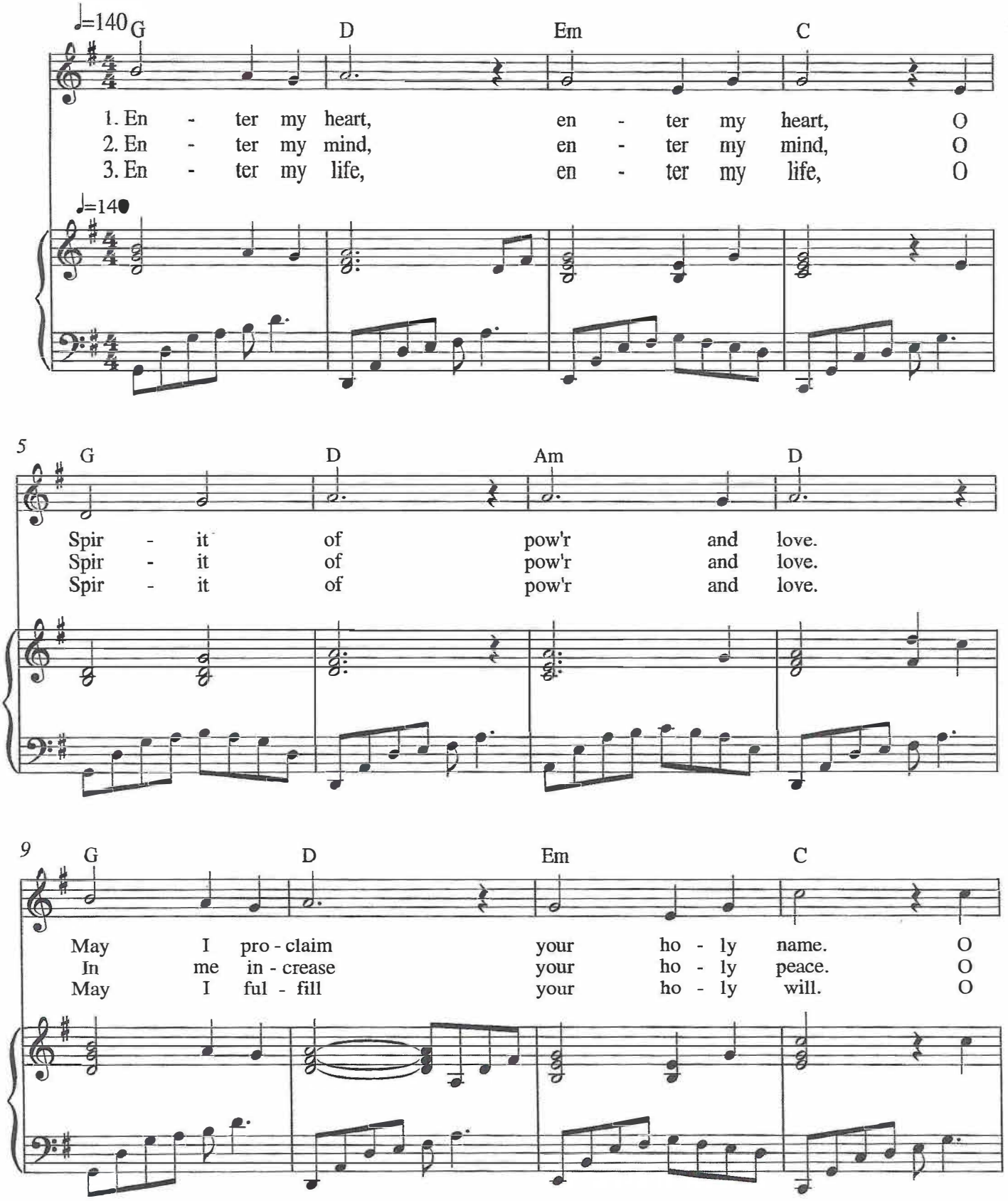
First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

Enter My Heart

1/2

♩=140
G
D
Em
C
1. En - ter my heart, en - ter my heart, O
2. En - ter my mind, en - ter my mind, O
3. En - ter my life, en - ter my life, O
♩=140
5
G
D
Am
D
Spir - it of pow'r and love.
Spir - it of pow'r and love.
Spir - it of pow'r and love.
9
G
D
Em
C
May I pro - claim your ho - ly name. O
In me in - crease your ho - ly peace. O
May I ful - fill your ho - ly will. O

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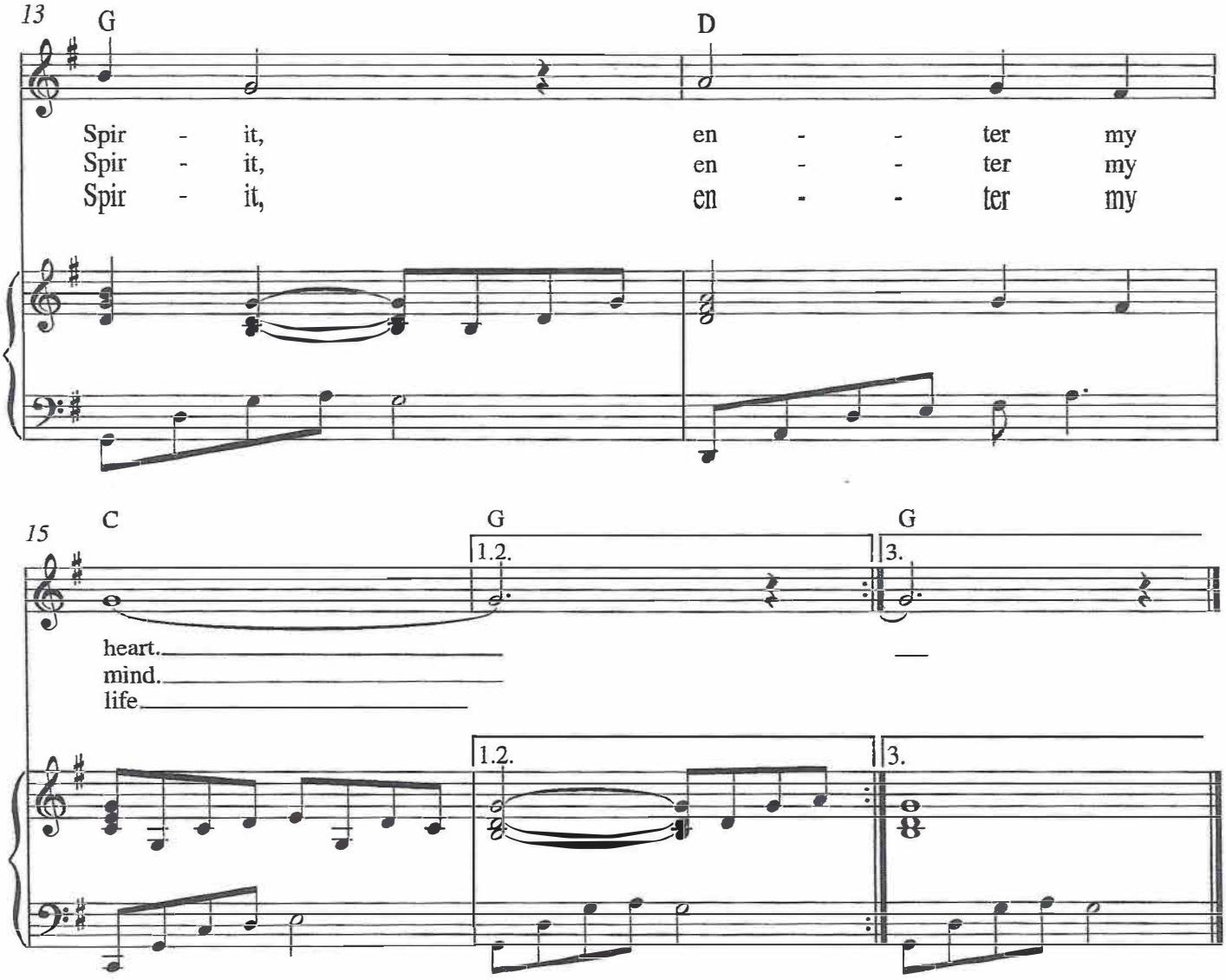
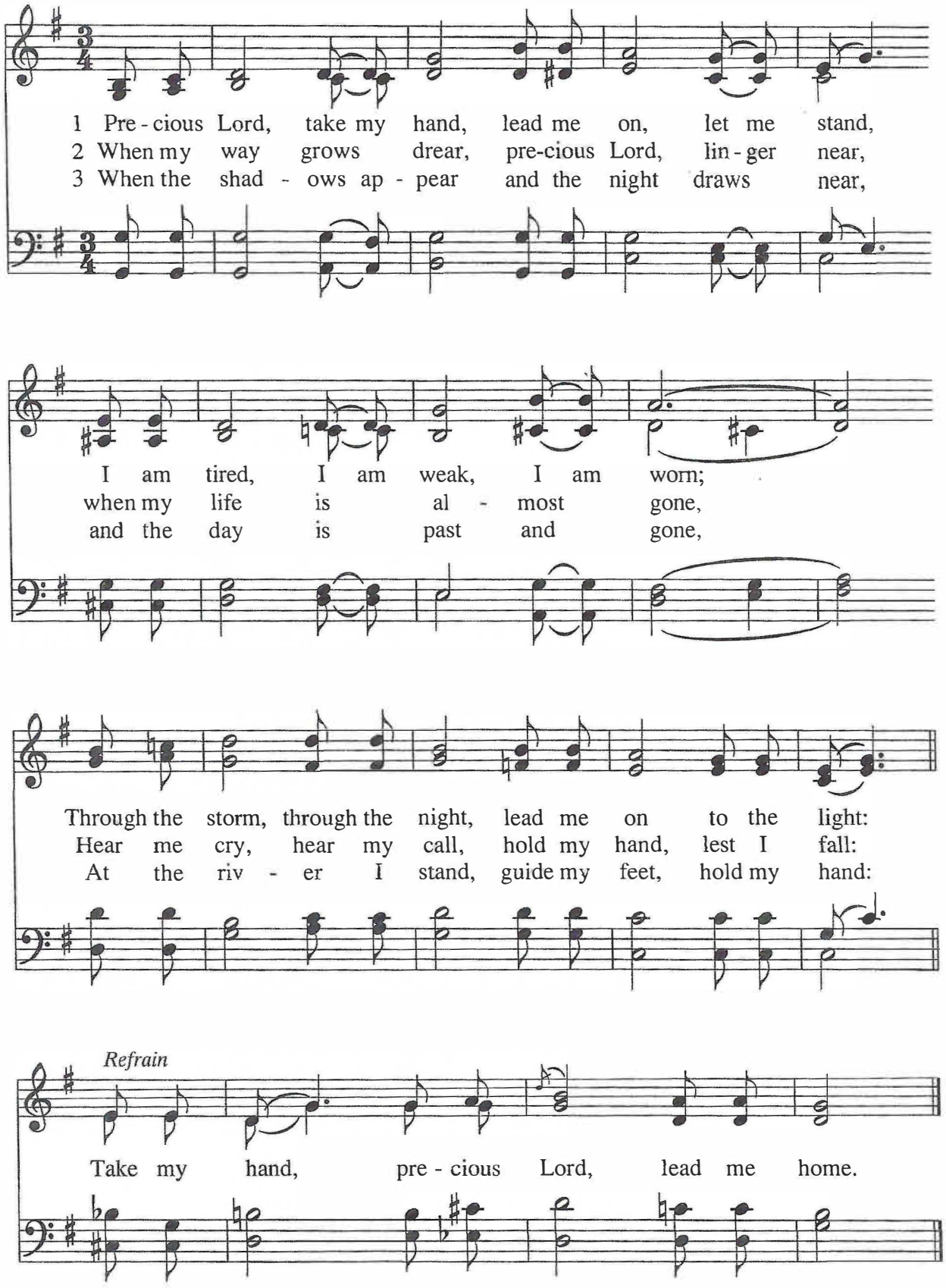

As an alternative:
"Enter our hearts...may we proclaim..."
"Enter our minds...in us increase..."
"Enter our lives...may we fulfill..."

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Refrain
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Thomas A. Dorsey was known as "Georgia Tom" when he played piano for blues singer Ma Rainey. He started writing gospel songs after what he called "a definite spiritual change." This inspirational song, composed following the deaths of his wife, Nettie, and a newborn child, derives from the tune Maitland.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD Irr. with refrain
Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

472 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

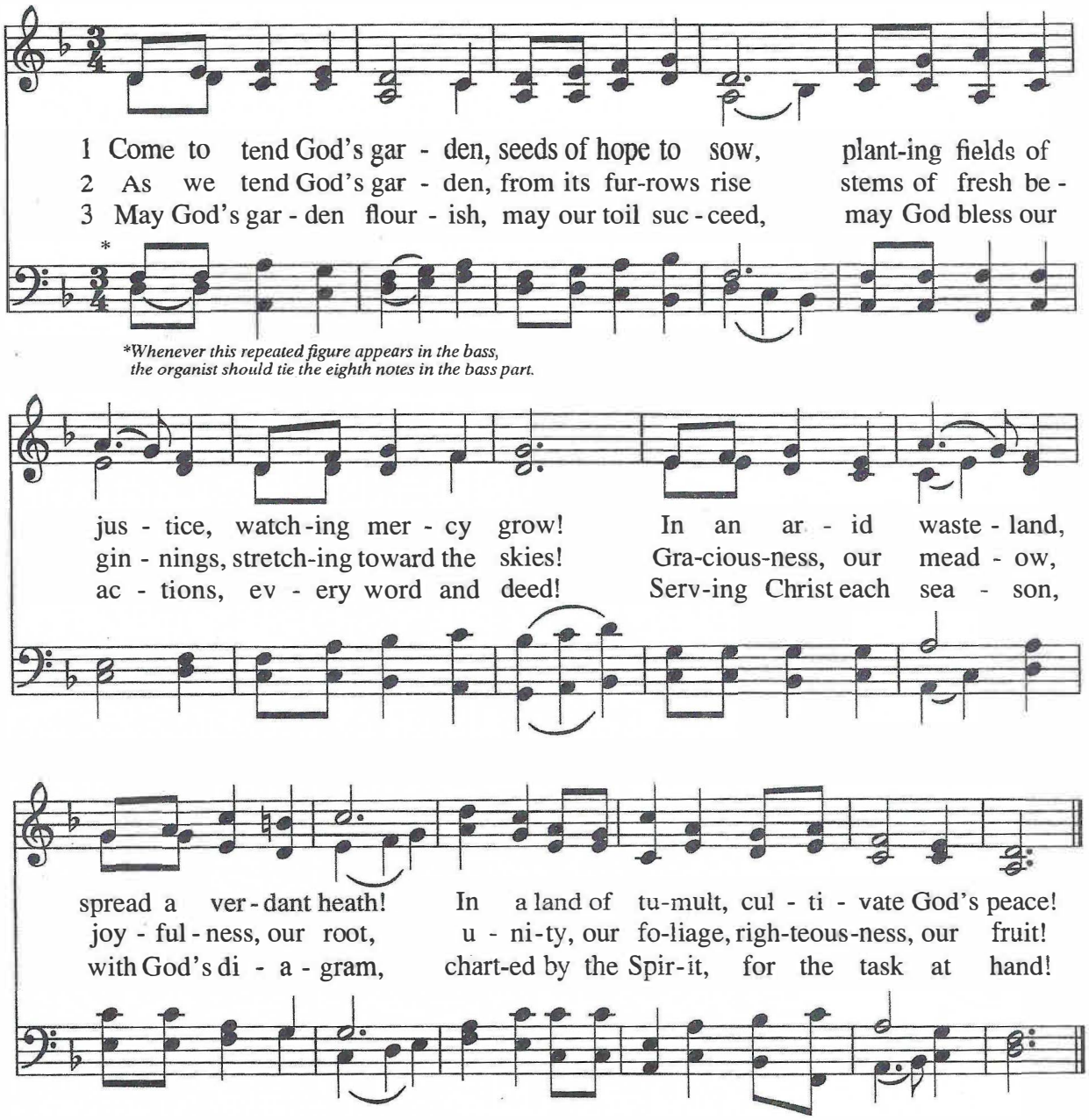
Thomas A. Dorsey experienced a "definite spiritual change" and began writing gospel songs to express his feelings. Already an accomplished and successful performing musician in the jazz and blues field, Dorsey eventually became known as the "father of gospel music."

Thomas A. Dorsey (1899–1965) developed PRECIOUS LORD from an old Sunday-school tune called MAITLAND. The hymn was first sung in 1932 at Ebenezer Baptist Church on the south side of Chicago, Illinois, by the choir director, Theodore Frye, with Dorsey serving as accompanist.

Thomas A. Dorsey was born in Villa Rica, Georgia, and was influenced by the blues pianists of Atlanta, Georgia. In 1923, he formed the Wildcat's Jazz Band, with whom Ma Rainey performed. For forty years, Dorsey was choir director at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Come to Tend God's Garden 586

John A. Dalles, 1992 *Luke 13:6–9; Gal. 5:22–26*


1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of
2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -
3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our
jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,
gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,
ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,
spread a ver - dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!
joy - ful - ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-liage, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!
with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!

**Whenever this repeated figure appears in the bass, the organist should tie the eighth notes in the bass part.*

John Dalles is the author of more than 200 hymn texts. This one was written for the 275th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity (Pennsylvania), where Dalles has served as a pastor at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

Tune: KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
For another setting see 255

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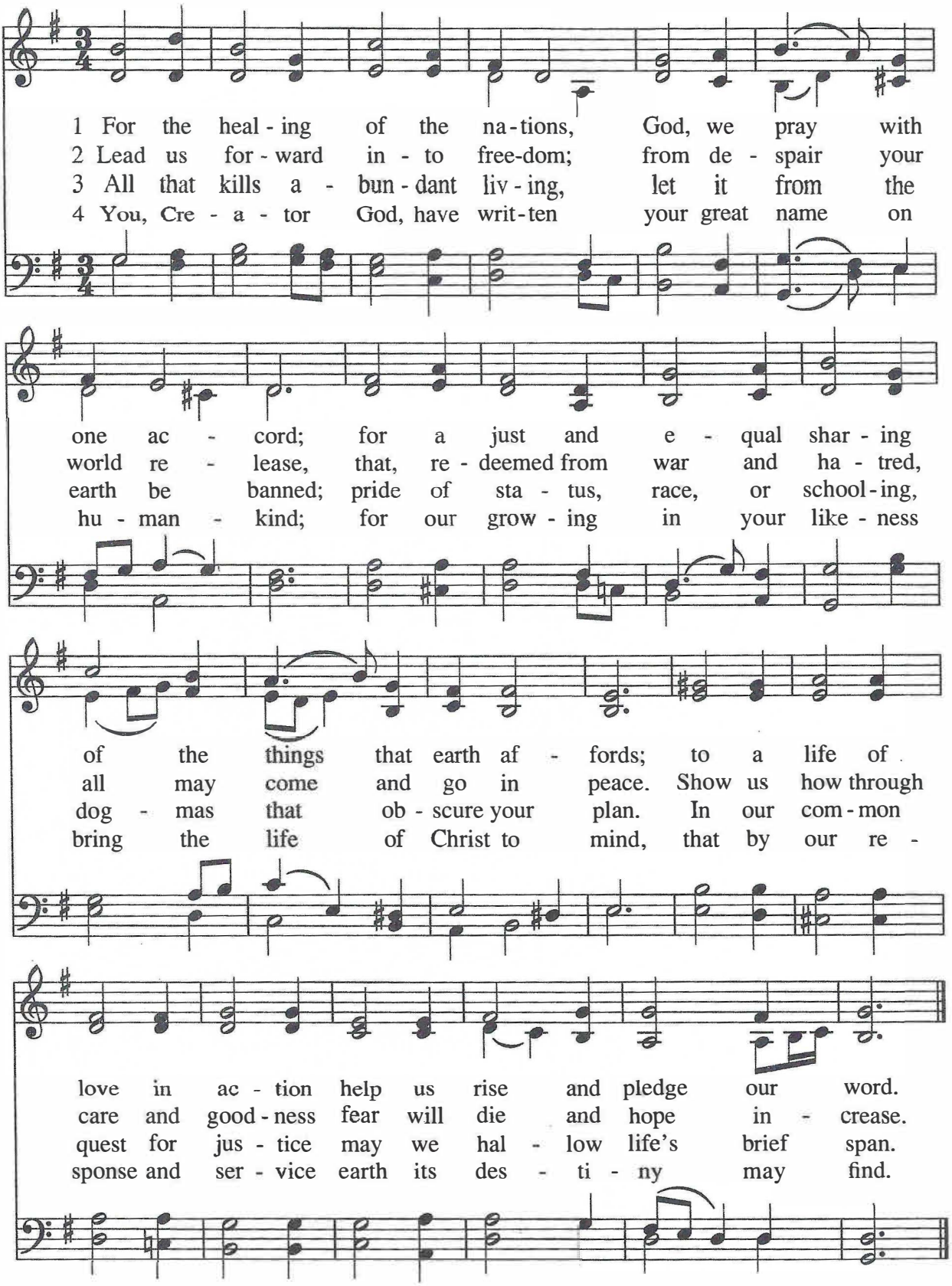
576 For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
2 Lead us for - ward in - to free-dom; from de - spair your
3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on
one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness
of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -
love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
Henry Purcell, c. 1680
Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

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